Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-10. (Withdrawn).

11. (Currently amended) A method performed by at least one processor, the method comprising:

generating a node to represent a functional relationship between one or more objects of distinct ontologies in a metadata system;

associating a**[[**n**]]** metadata expression of the functional relationship to the node; and

associating one or more parameters of the functional relationship to the node.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising associating a dependency chain representing the dependent relationships between properties of a parameter path associated with the one or more parameters of the functional relationship.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein associating one or more parameters comprises generating a resource that aggregates a local name, type, and dependency chain.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein associating one or more parameters comprises generating a resource that aggregates a type and a dependency chain and that is associated to a name through an explicit mapping.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising identifying mappings between dependency chains spanning the distinct ontologies.

16. (Previously presented) The method from claim 15 wherein the identifying further comprises utilizing heuristics to suggest alternative mappings between dependency chains.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising maintaining the mappings that span the distinct ontologies when one of the distinct ontologies is modified.

18. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium storing a program executable by a processor, the program causes the processor to:

generate a node to represent a functional relationship between one or more objects of distinct ontologies in a metadata system;

link to the node a**[[**n**]]** metadata expression of the functional relationship; and

link one or more parameters of the functional relationship to the node.

19. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 18 wherein the program further causes the processor to connect a dependency chain representing the dependent relationships between properties of a parameter path.

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 18 wherein the program further causes the processor to connect one or more parameters comprising generating a blank node that aggregates a local name, type, and dependency chain.

21.-25. (Withdrawn).